

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/071,739

Examiner

Quang D. Thanh

Applicant(s)

WEDGE, ROY D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an interview on 09/27/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



MICHAEL A. BROWN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Roy Wedge on 09/27/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the abstract, p. 17, line 4, "means for" has been replaced with -- a --

Claim 1 has been replaced with the following claim:

-- Claim 1: A hand rehabilitation device to be worn by an individual for the purpose of improving finger flexion range of motion of an injured hand by applying simultaneous composite dynamic flexion forces to selected fingers, said hand rehabilitation device having a volar support component at the selected fingers and comprising:

(a) a glove having a back hand side, a palm side and selected glove fingers extending therefrom for comfortably fitting onto a hand of said individual;

(b) tabs attached to the end of each selected glove finger, said tabs provide a means for removable attachment to a substantially rigid crossbar in order to assist with the transfer of dynamic forces to said selected fingers of said individual's hand;

(c) said substantially rigid crossbar provides said volar support component and comprises means for transferring a dynamic force from an outrigger to said selected fingers of said individual's hand, the means for transferring a dynamic force from said outrigger further comprises: first means for removable attachment to said tabs, second means for removable attachment to said outrigger at each end, and third means for selectively restricting the rotation of said outrigger about a longitudinal axis of said crossbar;

(d) said outrigger having means for transferring dynamic force of an elastic component to said crossbar, the means for transferring dynamic force of said elastic component comprises: means for removable attachment to the ends of a crossbar to allow said selective restriction of rotation of said outrigger around the longitudinal axis of said crossbar, and means for removable attachment to said elastic component;

(e) said elastic component having means for removable attachment to said outrigger, and means for removable attachment to said individual wearing the device. —

In claim 2, p. 13, line 1, "the tabs" has been replaced with — the means for removable attachment to said cross bar of said tabs --, and line 2, "the attachment means" has been replaced with — the first means for removable attachment to said tabs

—

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In claim 4, p.13, line 1, "there are three means of adjustability" has been deleted, and – along the cross bar – has been added after "selected locations".

In claim 5, p. 13, line 1, "the cross bar has a slotted" has been replaced with – the third means of the crossbar has a notch –.

In claim 6, p. 13, line 1, "the crossbar" has been replaced with – the second means of the crossbar --.

In claim 8, p. 13, line 2, "any number of acceptable manners currently in use" has been replaced with – various positions --.

In claim 10, p. 14, line 1, "member" has been replaced with – means --

Claim 12 has been replaced with the following claim:

-- Claim 12: A hand rehabilitation device to be worn by an individual for the purpose of improving finger flexion range of motion of an injured hand by applying simultaneous composite dynamic flexion forces to fingers 2,3,4 and 5, said hand rehabilitation device having a volar support component to the fingers and comprising:

(a) a glove having a back hand side, a palm side and five glove fingers extending therefrom for comfortably fitting onto a hand of said individual;

(b) tabs attached to the end of glove fingers 2,3,4 and 5, said tabs provide a means for removable attachment to a substantially rigid crossbar in order to assist with the transfer of dynamic forces to said fingers of said individual's hand;

(c) said substantially rigid crossbar provides said volar support component and comprises means for transferring a dynamic force from an outrigger to said selected fingers of said individual's hand, the means for transferring a dynamic force from said outrigger further comprises: first means for removable attachment to said tabs, second means for removable attachment to said outrigger at each end, and third means for selectively restricting the rotation of said outrigger about a longitudinal axis of said crossbar;

(d) said outrigger having means for transferring dynamic force of an elastic component to said crossbar, the means for transferring dynamic force of said elastic component comprises: means for removable attachment to the ends of a crossbar to allow said selective restriction of rotation of said outrigger around the longitudinal axis of said crossbar, and means for removable attachment to said elastic component;

(e) said elastic component having means for removable attachment to said outrigger, and means for removable attachment to said individual wearing the device. --

In claim 13, p. 15, line 1, "the tabs" has been replaced with – the means for removable attachment to said cross bar of said tabs --, and line 2, "the attachment means" has been replaced with – the first means for removable attachment to said tabs

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In claim 14, p. 15, line 1, "the crossbar" has been replaced with – the second means of the crossbar --.

In claim 15, p. 15, line 1, "the cross bar has a slotted" has been replaced with – the third means of the crossbar has a notch --.

In claim 16, p. 15, "a crossbar" in both lines 2-3, has been replaced with – said crossbar --

In claim 17, p. 15, line 2, "any number of acceptable manners currently in use" has been replaced with – various positions --.

In claim 19, p. 15, line 1, "member" has been replaced with – means --

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: : the prior art of record fails to teach or render obvious a hand rehabilitation device for improving finger flexion range of motion of an injured hand , said hand rehabilitation device comprising: (a) a glove having a back hand side, a palm side and selected glove fingers; (b) tabs attached to the end of each selected glove finger, having attaching means to a substantially rigid crossbar; (c) said substantially rigid crossbar provides said volar support component and comprises means for transferring a dynamic force from an outrigger to said selected fingers of said individual's hand, the means for transferring a dynamic force from said outrigger further comprises: first means for removable attachment to said tabs, second means for removable attachment to said outrigger at each end, and third means for selectively restricting the rotation of said outrigger about a longitudinal axis of said crossbar, and in combination with all the

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elements and the outrigger further including means for transferring dynamic force of an elastic component to said crossbar, the means for transferring dynamic force of said elastic component comprises: means for removable attachment to the ends of a crossbar to allow said selective restriction of rotation of said outrigger around the longitudinal axis of said crossbar, and means for removable attachment to said elastic component; and (e) said elastic component having means for removable attachment to said outrigger, and means for removable attachment to said individual wearing the device.

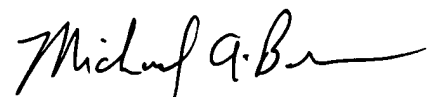
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang D. Thanh whose telephone number is (703) 605-4354. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday & alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Lucchesi can be reached on (703) 308-2698. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for regular and After-Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Quang D. Thanh
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3764
September 28, 2004



MICHAEL A. BROWN
PRIMARY EXAMINER